

Exemplary Student Research Program FAQs

Q: Who can participate?

A: The program is available to schools – one team per school. A team consists of a teacher and 4-8 students. The teacher must be employed by the school and the students must officially attend the same school. Students must be age 16 or older by January 2016.

Q: What is the program cycle?

A: It begins in the summer with a teacher workshop (August 4th) a requirement for one teacher to attend. It continues with a submitted team proposal at the end of October. Pending beamline approval, experiments are conducted at school and samples brought in and processed on the beam date, which typically falls in February or March. Results are collected and analyzed and placed in a poster format. Each team presents their poster at the Poster Session of the APS/CNM/EMC User's Meeting in mid-May at Argonne. Not counting the workshop, this cycle typically means ~3-4 team visits.

Q: Is a stipend paid to teachers and/or students

A: No.

Q: What logistics and costs must be covered by the school team?

A: Transportation, food, all materials for the research project.

Q: How do participants get lab access?

A: Upon completion of registration and training, the APS User Office will issue passes that are active through May 2016. Note that no one may bring unlawful materials [explosives, firearms, compressed gases, opened containers of alcohol] into the laboratory.

Q: Are there team requirements while visiting facilities or while doing research?

A: Yes. All participants must wear long pants covering the ankle and closed shoes. Students must work under the supervision of their teacher and mentor scientist. No one may work alone or explore unauthorized areas.

Q: What are the team deliverables?

A: There are several deliverables:

1. Submit a Proposed Experiment Worksheet (Word file)
2. Submit an On-line Project Proposal
3. Conduct the experiment culminating with use of beamtime at the APS or other special equipment.
4. Execute a robust data analysis with conclusions
5. Construct a poster following program guidelines. Each team member must participate in the poster presentation.

Q: What are the program supports?

A: These include:

1. Your beamline scientist will help the team design the experiment, assist with the proposal writing, be your facilitator for the beamline portion or other equipment needs of the project, and assist with data analysis.
2. The APS User Office staff will assist with registration, training, site access, submission of the on-line team proposal, confirm beamline assignments, and organize the poster session in May.
3. Educational Programs coordinator will monitor deliverables, assist with proposals and posters, organize the poster session agenda, and be a facilitator for each team throughout the program.